

DEC 13 2007

PATENT
Docket No. 110.01990101IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant(s): | STEER et al. |) | Group Art Unit: | 1657 |
| Serial No.: | 10/549,867 |) | Examiner: | AFREMOVA, Vera |
| Filed: | September 22, 2005 |) | Confirmation No. | 4764 |
| For: | <u>METHODS OF PROMOTING CELL VIABILITY</u> | | | |

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 30, 2007, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group A (claims 1-4, 7-9, and 15-19), drawn to *in vitro* treatment of cell populations with hydrophilic acid. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in this case and submit that the inventions of Group A and Group B can be readily evaluated in one search without placing undue burden on the Examiner. Applicants' Representatives reserve the right to pursue examination of the non-elected claims in continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 15-19, and 66-75 are linking claims, generic to the claims of Groups A and B. According to MPEP 809.03, "[u]pon the indication of allowability of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable linking claims will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104." Applicant requests the rejoinder of Groups A and B upon the indication of the allowability of a linking claim.